

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 DRC-01 /187 W

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R 231535Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2065

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

UNCLAS YAOUNDE 3839

AFRDOUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJEC: CHAT EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST

REF: NDJAMENA 1832

1. IN CONNECTION DROUGHT ACTIVITIES CHAD, REFTL (PARA 3.B) SET FORTH GOC REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF (I) MASTER MECHANIC TO OVERSEE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF ROAD EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN CONJUNCTION WITH (II) SPARE PARTS FOR DEADLINE U.S. EQUIPMENT PROVIDED IN PART UNDER THE AID/IDA ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECT (625-11-610-805) AND (III) BUDGETARY (OPERATIONAL) SUPPORT TO THE CHADIAN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. PROPOSAL IN CONTACT TRANSPORT SECTOR ASSESSMENT MADE BY THE FEI TEAM., I.E. THE NECESSITY OF AN IMPROVED ROAD NETWORK TO PERMIT EXPEDITIOUS MOVEMENT OF FOODGRAINS TO THE DROUGHT-AFFECTED AREAS AND TO REDUCE POSSIBILITY OF EXPENSIVE AIRLIFTS IN THE FUTURE.

2. WHILE GOC REQUESTED HENRY BRIGNAC, AID DIRECT HIRE

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TECHNICIAN UNDER PROJECT 625-805, BRIGNAC HAS SINCE INDICATED HE

IS NOT AVAILABLE. IN MEETINGS WITH MEMBERS OF THE FEI TEAM, DEPARTMENT PUBLIC WORKS OFFICIALS, STRONGLY EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INPUT ALONG WITH PROVISION OF SPARE PARTS.

EMBASSY AND RDO/Y CONSIDER EMPHASIS WELL PLACED. ALTHOUGH TEN MECHANICS AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN, OR ARE BEING, TRAINED AT THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT ROAD MAINTENANCE TRAINING CENTER (CERFER) IN LOME, MR. BRIGNACS ASSESSMENT, AT THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE IN MARCH 1973, WAS THAT ONLY ONE CHADIAN, NLAISE BERNARD, HAD THE POTENTIAL TO ASSUME TRAINING/LEADERSHIP FUNCTIONS. THIS ASSESSMENT WAS QUALIFIED, HOWEVER, WITH ESTIMATE BERNARD WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE EXPATRIATE TA SUPERVISION FOR A REASONABLE PERIOD BEFORE HE COULD BE PUT ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN. BERNARD DID SPEND A YEAR IN THE CHEF MECANICIEN COURSE AT CERFER, AND WAS SCHEDULED RETURN CHAD JULY 1973.

3. GOC HAS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED THAT A HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST BE ASSIGNED TO DFW, NDJEMANA FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR TO OVERSEE EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE AND CONTINUE ON-THE-JOB TRAINING. EMBASSY AND RDO/YAOUNDE FULLY SUPPORT THIS REQUEST.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST AID/W COMMENCE RECRUITMENT/ ASSIGNMENT OF FRENCH-SPEAKING, HEAVY-EQUIPMENT REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST WITH TRAINING CAPACITIES. IN EXPECTATION AID/W WILL TAKE DECISIONS SHORTLY RE PROVISION SPARE PARTS AND ROAD REPAIR OPERATIONS RECOMMEND ETA NDJAMENA NLT JANUARY 1974.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, DISASTER RELIEF, HIGHWAYS, MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973YAOUND03839
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731115/aaaaakvx.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NDJAMENA 1832
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: C: CHAT EQUIPMENT SPECIALIST
TAGS: EAID, CD, CM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005